

51. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising for each request, granting access to the system if an available access indicator is found in said access vector.

52. (New) An apparatus for determining access to a system, said system permitting a predetermined number of simultaneous accesses, the apparatus comprising:

U a computer;

one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for receiving one or more requests to access the system and, for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector comprised of one or more access indicators, wherein a number of available access indicators corresponds to a number of the simultaneous accesses permitted by the system at any given time.

53. (New) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein for each request, access to the system is granted if an available access indicator is found in said access vector.

54. (New) An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for determining access to a system, said system permitting a predetermined number of simultaneous accesses, the method comprising:

receiving one or more requests to access the system; and

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/364,315
Attorney Docket No. ST9-99-078 / A4891

for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector comprised of one or more access indicators, wherein a number of available access indicators corresponds to a number of the simultaneous accesses permitted by the system at any given time.

CA 55. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 54, the method further comprising for each request, granting access to the system if an available access indicator is found in said access vector.
